REMARKS

Prior to entry of the present amendment, claims 1-11 were pending in the application. With this reply, claims 1-11 remain pending. Claims 1-3, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for lack of novelty. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness. Each of these rejections is addressed below.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-3 have been amended. Support for these amendments is found, for example, in claims 1 and 2 as filed. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled subject matter in this or in a continuing application.

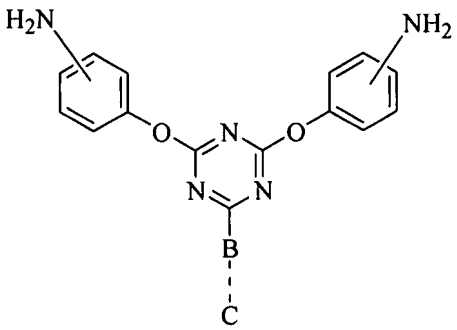
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

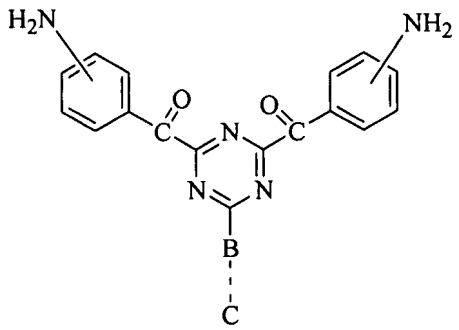
Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Butuc et al. (*J. Pol. Sci.* 22:503 (1984); hereafter "Butuc"), Model et al. (U.S. Patent 3,944,547; hereafter "Model"), and Seltzer et al. (U.S. Patent 3,700,665; hereafter "Seltzer"). Claims 1-3, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Seltzer et al. (U.S. Patent 3,729,448; hereafter "Seltzer 2"). Applicants have addressed these rejections by amendment of claims 1 and 2 and with the following remarks.

As the basis for all of these rejections the Examiner states that Butuc, Model, Seltzer, and Seltzer 2 individually disclose a "diamine structure identical to one, recited in

Claims 1 and 2" (Office Action, pg. 2). Each of Butuc, Model, Seltzer, and Seltzer 2 teach diaminotriazines for use in making polyimides.

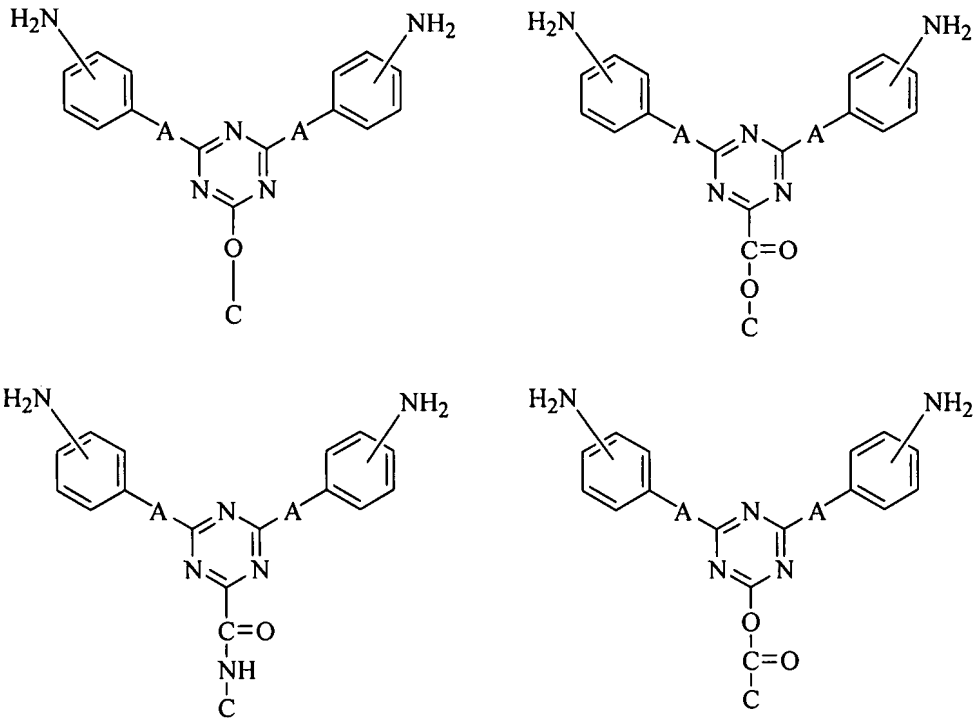
As amended, claims 1 and 2 are limited to diaminotriazines in which A (see formula 1 of claim 1) is an oxygen atom or a carbonyl group (see the structures below).





All of the diaminotriazines described by Model, Seltzer, and Seltzer 2 include a direct bond between the arylamino group and the triazine ring system. Most importantly, Model, Seltzer, and Seltzer 2 do not teach or suggest diaminotriazines in which A is an oxygen atom or a carbonyl group. Applicants note that the limitations of claims 1 and 2 are incorporated into all of the pending claims. Accordingly, claims 1-11, as amended, are distinguished from Model, Seltzer, and Seltzer 2 by the limitation that the diaminotriazine include an oxygen atom or a carbonyl group between that arylamine and the triazine ring.

As amended, claim 1 is also limited to diaminotriazines in which B (see formula 1 of claim 1) is -O-, -COO-, -CONH- or -OCO- (see the structures below). Claim 2, as



amended, is limited to diaminotriazines in which B is a direct bond (i.e., C is directly bound to the triazine ring) and C is selected from a group that does not include phenyl.

All of the diaminotriazines described by Butuc include a phenyl group direct bound to the triazine ring system. Most importantly, Butuc does not teach or suggest diaminotriazines in which a phenyl group is bound to the triazine ring via a -O-, -COO-, -CONH- or -OCO- linker. Nor does Butuc teach or suggest diaminotriazines in which the phenyl substituent is replaced by another group. Applicants note that the limitations of claims 1 and 2 are incorporated into all of the pending claims. Accordingly, claims 1-11, as amended, are distinguished from Butuc by the limitation that substituent C is bound to the diaminotriazine via a -O-, -COO-, -CONH- or -OCO- linker, as required by amended claim 1, or that substituent C is selected from a group that does not include phenyl, as

required by amended claim 2.

In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 2 and the remarks above, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection for lack of novelty.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Seltzer (*supra*) in view of Kawamonzen (U.S. Patent 6,316,170; hereafter "Kawamonzen"). Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Seltzer (*supra*) in view of Machido (U.S. Patent 6,159,654; hereafter "Machido"). Applicants have addressed these rejections by amendment of claims 1 and 2 and with the following remarks.

Examiner states that in view of the structure disclosed by Seltzer, Kawamonzen teaches "a polyamic acid, comprising tetravalent aromatic or alicyclic group (column 13, line 45) and aromatic diamine compounds (column 14, line 35, column 16, line 50) and siloxane-based diamines;" a "dianhydride comprising an aromatic or alicyclic group or their mixture (column 14, lines 25 and 50);" and a polyamic acid with an inherent viscosity between 0.3 dl/g and 1.5 dl/g (Office Action, pg. 3-4). The Examiner further states that Machido teaches "a polyamic solution with a liquid crystal aligning agent based on heterocyclic cycle (triazine) containing polyimide;" "a polyamic acid, comprising a tetravalent aromatic or alicyclic group and aromatic diamines compound and siloxane-based diamines;" and "a method of forming liquid crystal element layer by

coating polyamic acid onto substrate and....imidizing the coating" (Office Action, pg. 4-5).

Applicants submit that Seltzer in combination with Kawamonzen and/or Machido, considered alone or in combination, fail to teach the diaminotriazines of claims 1 and 2, as amended. As discussed *supra*, Seltzer fails to teach diaminotriazines in which A (see formula 1 of claim 1) is an oxygen atom or a carbonyl group. Rather, all of the diaminotriazines described by Seltzer include a direct bond between the arylamino group and the triazine ring system. Applicants note that the limitations of claims 1 and 2 are incorporated into all of the pending claims. Accordingly, claims 1-11, as amended, are directed to diaminotriazines, polyamic acids thereof, and liquid crystals thereof that include an oxygen atom or a carbonyl group between that arylamine and the triazine ring. This feature is not taught or suggested by Seltzer and this deficiency is not remedied by Kawamonzen or Machido.

Because the prior art relied upon for these rejections fail to teach each and every limitation of claims 1-11, as amended, Applicants submit that the amended claims are not obvious over Seltzer in view of Kawamonzen and/or Machido.

In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 2 and the remarks above, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection for obviousness.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby requested.

If there are any additional charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 30, 2007

Paul T. Clark
Reg. No. 30,162
Jeffrey J. Ellison, Reg. No. 51,649
for Paul T. Clark

Clark & Elbing LLP
101 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045